

Fact sheet 9

Quarry logistics

The transport of stone blocks and products is an important element of all quarrying activities. Clearly, the production of small objects that can be carried by a man or a donkey does require less constructed infrastructure than huge obelisks. However, whatever the output of the quarrying was, the remains of elements related to transport are important to characterise. These remains can be divided into groups:

1. internal logistics (inside the quarry until finishing/semi-finishing)
2. stockpiling and loading
3. overland transport
4. quay/harbours/waterways.

The internal logistics in a quarry may be defined as all transport between the production steps, and from the final step to a place of stockpiling or specific loading area if that exists. Depending on the pattern of production and the outcome of it, the internal logistics between the production steps may include constructed features or not.

In many quarry landscapes, the logistical system for the transport of heavy stone products can constitute the most visible features in the landscape, and could even have been the most effort-demanding side of the quarrying process. But even if the transport systems are less visible, such as for less heavy stone products, they are not necessarily less important, and may contribute with important information about the exploitation in general.

Types of roads and ramps commonly found in quarries

Feature	Classes	Definitions
Road	Paved road	Road with a surface of (stone) pavement
	Non-paved road/earth road	Road with a cleared and/or smoothed surface on the natural soil
	Hollow road	Road defined by a semicircular depression made by repeated use for transport of goods
	Rock cut road	Road that is carved in the bedrock
Causeway		Built-up structure made for evening out topography
Slipway		A worn path made from sliding stone blocks down from one level to another
Ramp	Loading ramp	Built-up structure made for loading stones onto a vehicle of transport
	Terrain ramp	Built-up structure that connects one level of topography with another
Path	Footpath	Single path resulting from repetitive use by people and/or animals
Track		Multiple paths resulting from repetitive use by people and/or animals along a route



Tall loading ramp at Chephren's Quarry, Egypt (Old Kingdom); the parallel tracks in the foreground were artificially dug so that the top of the transport vehicle was level with the top of the ramp.



Paved, rubble



Paved, slabs



Paved with edge alignment



Cleared with edge alignment



Cleared



Built-up ramp/causeway

Types of road constructions seen on the Aswan West Bank, Egypt, from the New Kingdom Period.



New Kingdom quarry roads at the Aswan West Bank, Egypt



Built-up ramp for leveling out the terrain features. New Kingdom, Aswan West Bank, Egypt.



Quarry road paved with rubble. New Kingdom, Aswan West Bank, Egypt.



Paved quarry road made for transporting basalt blocks to the pyramid sites, Egypt, Old Kingdom.



Foot path for people and animals in a grinding stone quarry, Aswan, Egypt.



Paved quarry road in Hellenistic marble quarry, Mount Pentelikon, Greece.



Cairn along stone transport route, Egypt



Roman quarry road carved out in the rock, displaying deep wear marks from wheels. Nea Skyra, Evia, Greece



Mooring sockets for transport boats in a harbor at the Gebel el Silsila sandstone quarries, Egypt.